

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTO 03624 032135Z

72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 DRC-01 /121 W

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R 032045Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1374

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3624

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, DR

SUBJECT: PRD WILLING TO DIALOGUE

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 3535

1. AT HIS REQUEST, DR. JOSE FRANCISCO PENA GOMEZ, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO DOMINICANO (PRD), MET WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON AUGUST 30. PENA, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY TWO OTHER PRD LEADERS, SAID THAT HE WOULD LEAD A FIVE MAN HIGH-LEVEL PRD COMMITTEE TO THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 14 OR 15. THE GROUP WISHED TO CALL ON OFFICIALS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND TO PRESENT A CASE FOR THE "ILLEGAL" DOMINICANS WHO FOUND THEMSELVES "HARRASSED" BY U.S. IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS. THE GROUP HAS ALREADY MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO VISIT "LIBERAL" CONGRESSMEN AND OTHER LEADING POLITICAL FIGURES IN THE U.S. AND PENA IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB.

2. IN REVIEWING THE LOCAL POLITICAL SITUATION, PENA STATED THAT THE SANTIAGO ACCORD WAS NOW SOMETHING OF AN ANACHRONISM AND PREDICTED ITS EARLY DEMISE. HE SAID THAT THE PRD WAS WILLING TO ENTER INTO A DIALOGUE WITH BALAGUER, BUT ONLY IF BALAGUER FIRST LIFTED THE BAN WHICH PROHIBITED PENA AND PROFESSOR PABLO RAFAEL CASIMIRO CASTRO FROM APPEARING ON
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PAGE 02 SANTO 03624 032135Z

RADIO AND TELEVISION. THE PURPOSE OF THE DIALOGUE WOULD NOT

BE TO OBTAIN JOBS--THE PRD DID NOT WANT THEM--OR OTHERWISE PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNMENT, BUT TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING WITH BALAGUER OF MUTUAL BENEFIT: THE PARTY WOULD BE ALLOWED TO CARRY ON ITS ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS FREE FROM GOVERNMENT HARASSMENT, AND IN TURN THE PARTY WOULD NOT RESORT TO VIOLENCE OR MASS DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

3. HE READILY ADMITTED THAT THE PARTY DID NOT HAVE HIGH LEVEL MILITARY SUPPORT AND SAID THAT FOR THIS REASON A COUP D'ETAT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE AT THIS TIME. HE DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, THAT THE INCREASING INFLATION WOULD CREATE A SITUATION WHEREBY BALAGUER MIGHT BE FORCED OUT OF OFFICE AT SOME FUTURE DATE.

4. COMMENT: PENA WAS MORE REALISTIC, REASONABLE AND CONVINCING THAN HE HAS BEEN IN THE PAST WHEN TALKING WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS. ASSUMING THAT HE IS SINCERE, THE WILLINGNESS OF THE PRD TO REACH SOME KIND OF AN UNDERSTANDING WITH BALAGUER SHOULD TAKE SOME OF THE EDGE OFF THE OPPOSITION'S ACUTE HOSTILITY DISPLAYED TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT IN RECENT MONTHS. IT MIGHT EVEN BRING RELATIVE TRANQUILITY TO THE COUNTRY FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS.
HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HARASSMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY LEADERS, PARTY FACTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PARTY ORGANIZATION, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, VISITS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTO03624
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740244-0211
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740979/aaaacosu.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SANTO DOMINGO 3535
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRD WILLING TO DIALOGUE
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, OVIP, DR, US, PRD, (BALAGUER, JOAQUIN), (PENA GOMEZ, JOSE FRANCISCO), (CASIMIRO CASTRO, PABLO RAFAEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005